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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you are aware, the Nordic countries have always been strong supporters of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Over the years we have contributed a considerable number of troops to these operations. Presently approximately 5,300 men and women from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are deployed in ongoing United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Against this background, we take a keen interest in the discussions in the Security Council on the letter dated 15 September 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and relating to a strengthening of the arrangements for consultations between troop-contributing countries, members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General (S/1994/1063).

The Nordic countries strongly support the general principle that improved procedures need to be developed for such consultations. We firmly believe that the consultations with the troop contributors should be structured, focused on areas of particular concern and take place on a regular basis as well as when extensions and/or modifications of existing mandates are being considered. Efforts should be made to engage potential troop contributors in consultations before a decision is taken by the Security Council to launch a new peace-keeping operation.

The modalities and practical arrangements for consultations on peace-keeping operations between troop-contributing countries, members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General obviously need to be worked out in a manner acceptable to all concerned. Needless to say, the kind of strengthened arrangements for consultations that we have in mind should in no way infringe upon the responsibilities of the Security Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

In our view, an enhanced dialogue and increased transparency in these matters will be of crucial importance for maintaining the broad political support for United Nations operations that has been the tradition in our countries.

We would appreciate if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

(Signed) Wilhelm BREITENSTEIN
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

(Signed) Hans Jacob BIØRN LIAN
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations